

CLAIMS

1. A chewable toy for animals, which can be produced by the moulding into a desired configuration of a mixture comprising:

- 100 parts by weight of a degradable polymeric composition comprising a starchy material and a degradable ethylene copolymer,

- from 5 to 30 parts by weight of isomalt, and

- from 0.5 to 5 parts by weight of garlic or derivatives thereof.

2. A toy according to Claim 1, in which the mixture comprises from 10 to 20 parts by weight of isomalt per 100 parts by weight of degradable polymeric composition.

3. A toy according to any one of the preceding claims, in which the mixture comprises from 1 to 3 parts by weight of garlic or its derivatives per 100 parts by weight of degradable polymeric composition.

4. A toy according to any one of the preceding claims, in which the derivative of garlic is a powder which can be produced as a result of the formation of a suspension of garlic bulbs in water in a ratio by weight within the range between 1:2 and 1:5 and subsequent lyophilization of the suspension with a preliminary stage of cooling to -50°C for from 4 to 8 hours followed by a heating stage with a duration of between 12 and 24 hours, to a temperature no greater than 50°C.

5. A toy according to any one of the preceding claims in which the mixture also comprises from 1 to 20, and preferably from 5

to 10, parts by weight of chestnut flour per 100 parts by weight of degradable polymeric composition.

6. A toy according to any one of the preceding claims, in which the mixture also comprises from 5 to 30, and preferably from 15 to 20, parts by weight of ground raw animal hide per 100 parts by weight of degradable polymeric composition.

7. A toy according to any one of preceding claims 1 to 5, in which the mixture also comprises from 0.01 to 1 part by weight of hide aroma per 100 parts by weight of degradable polymeric composition.

8. A toy according to any one of the preceding claims in which the mixture also comprises from 0.5 to 3, and preferably from 1 to 2, parts by weight of sodium hexametaphosphate per 100 parts by weight of degradable polymeric composition.

9. A toy according to any one of the preceding claims in which the starchy material is selected from the group consisting of starch, hydrolyzed starch, starch dextrin and mixtures thereof.

10. A toy according to any one of the preceding claims, in which the degradable ethylene copolymer is selected from the group consisting of poly(ethylene-acrylic acid), poly(ethylene-vinyl alcohol) and mixtures thereof.

11. A toy according to any one of the preceding claims, in which the ratio by weight between the ethylene copolymer and the starchy material is within the range between 1:6 and 2:1 and, preferably, within the range between 1:6 and 1:1.

12. A toy according to any one of the preceding claims in which the polymeric composition also includes a plasticizer in

a quantity of between 10% and 40% by weight, the plasticizer being selected from the group consisting of glycerol, sorbitol, sorbitan, manitol, maltitol, hydrogenated starch syrup, sucrose, maltose, fructose, and mixtures thereof.

13. A toy according to any one of the preceding claims, having the shape of a bone.